

Meeting 10/26/05 SRC Subcommittee on Laser Safety

Present: Joel Ager (MSD), Ted de Castro (EHS), Marc Hertlein (CSD), Richard Kadel (PHNSD), Larry McLouth (EHS), Robert Schoenlein (MSD), Neil Landau (DOE/BSO), Ed Ciprazo (UCB)

Agenda:

- (1) Update on AHD database (Larry)
- (2) Update on status of laser inventory database (and DOE verification) (Ted, Neil)
- (3) DOE Laser Safety Expectations and their applicability to campus labs (Gary, Ed, Ted, Neil)

Minutes:

(1) A production version of the AHD database is expected to be released soon. It was suggested that a beta version be released to committee members with active laser AHDs (Hertlein, Schoenlein, Ager) so that they can test it. It was also suggested that individual researchers responsible for AHDs be required to enter the data into the AHD database (rather than have this done by others). This is to insure that the person responsible for the AHD also takes responsibility for verifying the accuracy of the contents of AHD in the database.

(2) Laser Inventory Database

- Laser inventory database is complete, and Gary Zeman will officially notify BSO of this.
- Inactive AHDs still included, just to track lasers. A concern was raised that people listed on inactive AHDs might be erroneously required to take training associated with that inactive AHD. Ted will look into this to make sure it doesn't happen.
- Lasers purchased through LBNL but shipped to campus are not listed in the AHD database. Neil will get some clarification on this, but at present, the inventory does not include lasers that are on campus.

(3) There was considerable discussion about applying the new DOE laser safety expectations to campus labs where LBNL personnel are working with lasers. The central issue is that DOE holds LBNL responsible for the work safety practices of LBNL personnel – even when they are working off-site. This is usually only a small number of people, except in the case of laser users working on campus.

It was suggested that that an initial attempt be made to identify the number of LBNL personnel who are working with lasers on campus. Present estimates are very rough, and do not provide a sufficiently accurate scope of the problem. At present, there is an effort to standardize the JHQ for people on campus in order to direct them to the appropriate campus safety courses. It was proposed that the Laser Safety Committee propose specific laser safety questions for the campus JHQ in order to (i) identify LBNL personnel who are using lasers on campus, and (ii) to direct them to the appropriate LBNL laser safety courses to insure that the new DOE Laser Safety Expectations are being satisfied. This will require that arrangements be made to satisfy the hand-on training requirement (and documentation), and periodic laser lab visit requirement. One approach is for Ted de Castro to accompany Ed Ciprazo on his normally scheduled visits to any relevant campus labs where LBNL personnel are working.

Once we have a better handle on the problem, and a well defined plan of action, it was proposed that a memo be drafted to DOE/BSO outlining the labs plan of action, and further clarifying the boundaries that define the responsibilities of the LBNL laser safety program.